

CLAIMS:

1. A method of allocating bandwidth for multicast traffic in a switching device connected between a plurality of ingress means and a plurality of egress means, the method comprising the steps of:-

a) determining ingress multicast queue occupancy for each ingress means;

b) determining the number of multicast cells received by the egress means from the ingress means in the last bandwidth allocation period;

c) determining the bandwidth at each ingress means and egress means; and

d) calculating the bandwidth allocation for the next bandwidth allocation period in accordance with the values determined in steps a), b) and c).

2. A method of allocating bandwidth for multicast traffic substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.